

Attorney Docket No.: FMCE-P140

Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bearden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,328,111). Claim 6 has accordingly been canceled, without prejudice.

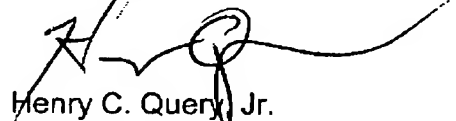
Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Bearden in view of Helms et al. (U.S. Patent No. Re 39,509). These claims have accordingly been canceled, without prejudice.

The Examiner has stated that claims 14-16 would be allowable if they are rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their base and intervening claims. Claim 14 has been so rewritten. Claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 14 and therefore do not need to be rewritten.

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-10.

In light of the foregoing, claims 1-5, 7-10 and 14-16 are submitted as allowable. Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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